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AN

ACCOUNT

Of the PROCEEDINGS of the

CHARITABLE SOCIETY

For RELIEVING the

SICK and NEEDY

At the PUBLICK

INFIRMARY in *Weſtminſter.*

THIS Undertaking was ſet on Foot towards the latter End of the Year 1719: And a Propoſal then publiſhed to invite all well-diſpoſed Perſons to contribute their Aſſiſtance to it. In Conſequence of which, ſeeing, by the Bleſſing of God, and the generous Encouragement and Contributions of divers Perſons of all Qualities and Conditions, it has been carried on even beyond Expectation; it has been thought proper to give an Authentick Account every Year ſince of the Proceedings of the Society, as well for the Satisfaction of their Subſcribers and Benefactors, as to animate others to join in the farther promoting a Work ſo truly redounding to the Honour of Almighty God, and the Relief and Comfort of the moſt miſerable and helpleſs of our Fellow-Chriſtians.

December 2, 1719, ſeveral Gentlemen met to conſider of the moſt proper Methods for putting this Charitable Deſign in Execution; at which Meeting it was thought neceſſary, in the firſt Place, that a Subſcription-Roll ſhould be prepared: The Preamble whereof was accordingly drawn up, and agreed to, as follows.

WHEREAS great Numbers of ſick Perſons in this City languiſh for want of Neceſſaries, and too often die miſerably, who are not entitled to a Parochial Relief: And whereas amongſt thoſe who do receive Relief from their reſpective Pariſhes, many ſuffer extremely, and are ſometimes loſt, partly for want of Accommodations and proper Medicines in their own Houſes or Lodgings, (the Cloſeneſs and Unwholeſomneſs of which is too often one great Cauſe of their Sickneſs) partly by the imprudent laying out of what is ſo allowed, and by the Ignorance and ill Management of thoſe about them;

We

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We, whoſe Names are underwritten, in Obedience to the Rules of our holy Religion, deſiring, ſo far as in us lies, to find ſome Remedy for this great Miſery of our poor Neighbours, do ſubſcribe the following Sums of Money to be by Us paid Yearly (during Pleaſure) by Quarterly Payments, for the procuring, furniſhing, and defraying the neceſſary Expences of an Infirmary, *or Place of Entertainment, for ſuch poor ſick Perſons inhabiting in the Pariſh of St.* Margaret, Weſtminſter, *or others, who ſhall be recommended by any of the Subſcribers or Benefactors, with the Approbation and Conſent of the major Part of the * Truſtees preſent; who are likewiſe impowered to allow ſuitable Relief to ſuch ſick Perſons, approved in the manner abovementioned, as are incapable of being removed from their reſpective Abodes.*

It was agreed at the aforeſaid Meeting, that this Preamble (as containing in ſhort the Nature and End of the Undertaking, and the general Method they intended to proceed upon) ſhould be forthwith printed and diſperſed abroad.

Whereupon the Truſtees ſoon finding themſelves encouraged chearfully to go on, by the Subſcriptions and Benefactions which they procured, each from his Friends and Acquaintance, and thoſe of others, who came readily in to ſo apparently good and charitable a Deſign; and their Number being conſiderably increaſed by the Acceſſion of new Subſcribers and Benefactors, they proceeded to form themſelves into a regular Society.

To which end they appointed one of the Subſcribers to keep a particular Account of the Receipts and Payments: They agreed to meet every *Wedneſday* Evening, to manage and carry on the Charity; and made ſeveral Orders for the Regulation of their Proceedings at theſe Meetings. Dr. *Alexander Stuart* now Phyſician to her Majeſty, and ſome time after Dr. *William Waſey*, and Dr. *Teiſſier* Phyſician to his Majeſty's Houſhold (all three Subſcribers) engaged to ſerve the Society (without Fee or Reward) as Phyſicians; and divers eminent Surgeons offered their Aſſiſtance *gratis*, viz. *Claudius Amyand* and *Ambroſe Dickins*, Eſquires, Serjeant-Surgeons to his Majeſty, and *William Cheſelden*, Eſq; Surgeon to her Majeſty, were pleaſed to ſubſcribe and accept of being principal Surgeons, and Mr. *Wilkie* (a Subſcriber) was appointed Surgeon in ordinary to the *Infirmary*; and ſeveral Divines (Subſcribers to this Charity) do give daily Attendance in their Turns to the ſick Poor, who are from time to time admitted into the *Infirmary*. To the Concurring Labours of all which Gentlemen, the Society do moſt thankfully acknowledge the preſerving the Lives, and (we hope) the ſaving the Souls of many of ſuch ſick Poor (under God) to be owing.

Though it was ſome Time before the Society could find a Houſe in all reſpects convenient for an *Infirmary*, yet they did not neglect doing what good they were able in the mean time; and many poor People were attended and relieved at their own Lodgings. And even after a Houſe was hired and furniſhed, and the *Infirmary* ſet up, they continued, and do ſtill continue, to aſſiſt conſiderable Numbers of poor People upon the foot of Out-patients.

About the beginning of *April* 1720, a Houſe was taken in *Petty-France, Weſtminſter*, and fitted up with all the neceſſary Accommodations for an *Infirmary*. A ſober diſcreet Perſon was provided as a Matron or Houſe-keeper, together with a Meſſenger, a Nurſe, *&c.* Here, and in the *Infirmary* in *Chapel-Street*, to which they removed in the Year 1724, as being a larger and more convenient Houſe, the Society have ever ſince held their Weekly Meetings, at which their Incomes

* *It is reſolved that all Subſcribers ſhall be Truſtees of this Charity.*

Incomes and Diſburſements are ſtated and adjuſted, and the particular Accounts of each regularly kept; Patients admitted and diſcharged; and all the Affairs of the Society tranſacted by as many of the Subſcribers as pleaſe to meet together. The Phyſicians, Surgeons, and Clergy giving due Attendance, and the Patients being carefully looked after by the Matron and Servants of the Houſe, under the Inſpection of the Society, and provided with proper Medicines at the beſt Hand, as well as with cleanly Lodgings, and with wholeſom Diet; which the Society have found by Experience to be oftentimes as effectual, towards the Recovery of poor People, as the Medicines themſelves. And here it may be added, that in order to make the Charity ſtill more extenſive, the Phyſicians have freely given their Advice to Numbers of poor People who have apply'd to them, over and above thoſe who were entertained by the Society.

In this Method the Society have all along proceeded, and for ſeveral Years paſt, (but more particularly this laſt) have received great Encouragement from ſeveral Perſons of the firſt Quality; ſo that it is now hoped, that the whole Undertaking having been purſued thus far with ſuch wonderful Succeſs, ſettled in a Method ſo regular and uniform, encouraged by the Care and Liberality of ſo many Subſcribers and Benefactors, and (above all) ſo viſibly ſupported by the Bleſſing of God, will long continue to promote his Glory, and the Benefit of the Bodies and Souls of our poor Brethren, and prove one of the happy Means to draw down a Bleſſing upon the whole Nation; ſince there is ſcarce any one Species of Charity, which is not comprehended in it; the Hungry being fed, the Naked clothed, the Stranger taken in, the Ignorant inſtructed, the Sick viſited and relieved; and many poor induſtrious People, who have nothing but the Labour of their Hands to ſubſiſt upon, preſerved from periſhing miſerably, or becoming a Burden to their Country, and render'd uſeful Members of it.

N. B. This *Infirmary* being intended for the Reception and Relief of the Neceſſitous Sick and Wounded from all Parts, (there being no other Hoſpital of this Kind in this Populous City of *Weſtminſter* or the Liberties thereof;) and the Money given towards the Support of it, having been ſo ſatisfactorily managed hitherto about Fourteen Years together; It is hop'd, the Additional Subſcriptions, or Benefactions of many, who are at preſent Strangers to it, and would gladly ſee their well-intended Contributions ſo well and frugally apply'd, will enable the Truſtees to provide a larger Houſe, capable of receiving a greater number of Patients.

From

From the INFIRMARY for the SICK and NEED

In *Chapel-Street Weſtminſter, Wedneſday 28th* of *March*, 1733.

UNder the Care of the ſaid Infirmary from its Firſt Erection in *December* 1719, to the 29th of *March* 1732, according to former Accounts.		31
Cured ſince that time	249	
Diſcharged Incurable	37	
Diſcharged for Irregularity	16	
Out-Patients Diſcharged for not attending, moſt of them ſuppoſed Cured	77	
Advice given *Gratis* to	87	
Dead	39	
Total in 1732		
In all		36

N. B. Out-Patients then on the Books — 44
And Patients then in the Houſe — 31 } 75

Receipts for the Year 1732, *viz.*					
Balance of the laſt Year's Account			*l.* *s.* *d.* 627 12 0¼		
	l.	*s.*	*d.*		
Subſcriptions this Year	583	9	0		
Benefactions, *viz.*					
From the late Earl of *Thanet*'s Executors, being a Charity his Lordſhip approved	500	0	0		
From others	418	12	4		
For Buying or Building	20	0	0		
	938	12	4		
Legacies, *viz.*					
Mrs. *Mary Harbart*'s	200	0	0		
Thomas Railton's, Eſq;	100	0	0		
From others	120	0	0		
	420	0	0		
				1942 1 4	
					2569 13
Diſburſements, *viz.*					
Houſe-keeping, including Beer, Coals, *&c.*				366 6 7¾	
Medicines Diſpenſed				144 15 4¾	
Houſe-Rent				37 0 0	
Salaries, Wages, and Taxes				73 11 0	
Tradeſmen's Bills, *&c.*				142 1 5	
					763 14
Balance in the Treaſurer's Hands on the laſt Audit to the 28th of *March* 1733 Incluſive					1805 18

Receipts from the firſt Erection of this Infirmary to the 29th of *March* 1732 Incluſive	6692	9	11
Receipts this Year	1942	1	4
Total			8634 11
Diſburſements from the firſt Erection of this Infirmary to the ſaid Time	6064	17	10¾
Diſburſements this Year	763	14	5½
Total			6828 12
Balance then of the Whole			1805 18